

Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.

### **Private banks must get 50% deposits**

- The government has decided to park 50% of its development and revenue budget with private banks as part of its concerted effort to enforce single-digit interest rate. The autonomous, semi-autonomous and government companies also will have to keep their 50% of their surplus fund at the lenders, according to a notice issued by the finance ministry.
- The government has taken the decision to lower the interest rate on lending to single digit as part of its move to give a boost to investment and employment generation and make the growth momentum sustainable. The funds will have to be kept with private banks at six% interest rate. The concerned government entities will have to park the remaining half of their deposits with state banks at 5.5% interest.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/private-banks-must-get-50pc-deposits-1856884>  
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/97213/soes-asked-to-deposit-50pc-funds-in-pvt-banks-at-6pc-interest>

### **Decade of Grameenphone's rise and Banglalink's decline**

- Grameenphone started the new decade with a 46.18% share of total customers in the market, up from 42.80% just five years back. The regulator yesterday published a report on active user in Bangladesh and found that Grameenphone's active customer number was 76.4 million at the end of December last year. The country's second largest operator, Robi, had 49.0 million active connections, Banglalink 35.2 million and state-run Teletalk 4.87 million.
- Five years ago, Bangladesh had six mobile operators and Banglalink was the second largest carrier in terms of customers with a 25.68% market share. Their market share was 26.45% ten years back but fell to 21.28% at the end of December last year.
- The internet started to dominate the telecom industry in the last decade with the advent of 3G and 4G technologies. At the end of February 2012, the country had 31.1 million active internet connections that reached 99.4 million in December last year, with 94.22% of the latest figure being mobile internet.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/decade-grameenphones-rise-and-banglalinks-decline-1856905>

### **The National Board of Revenue (NBR) to cut duty benefit on 21 power plant items**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to cut duty-free benefit on import of 21 types of power plant equipment, categorizing them 'locally available and consumable products.' The decision has been taken in a bid to check duty evasion through abusing the benefit, offered for attracting power sector investment. Officials said the NBR has sent a summary of the new SRO to the finance minister for his approval.
- Currently, power producers enjoy duty-free benefit on import of power equipment and spare parts as per two SROs, issued in 1997 and 2000. Abusing the facility, some of the power producers were importing pre-fabricated building, MS rod, boulder stone, hot rolled steel plate, steel structure, steel pipe, other construction materials, anchor boat, and dredger etc. as power plant equipment. Sources said although the SROs offered duty benefit for all types of power plant equipment, the NBR in a general order (GO) in February 2019 tagged a condition to check duty evasion. In the GO, the NBR made obtaining approval or certification from the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Recourses mandatory to avail the facility. The GO also said customs houses will not release the power plant equipment, if they find any possibility of duty evasion through their import.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-to-cut-duty-benefit-on-21-power-plant-items-1579543717>

### **Dhaka, Seoul finalize three Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects**

- The 2nd Bangladesh-Korea joint platform has finalized three public-private partnership projects in the rail, road and power sectors to be implemented under government-to-government arrangement. The projects are Dhaka Circular Railway, Matarbari-Madunaghat 400kV Transmission Line and Improvement of Dhaka (Joydebpur)-Mymensingh Road into Expressway with service lane. The PPP Authority officials said the latest platform meeting also enabled the funding agencies of both the countries to sit during the working session. They are Korea EXIM Bank, Infrastructure Development Company Ltd, Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Ltd, HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank and Sonali Bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/dhaka-seoul-finalise-three-ppp-projects-1579544283>

**Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) shares to be offloaded**

- The 'Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Bill, 2020' was introduced in parliament on Monday to offload 49% of its shares in the capital market. Road Transport and Bridges Minister placed the Bill in the House and it was sent to the respective parliamentary standing committee for further examination. The Committee was asked to submit its report within 14 working days. According to the proposed law, the government will own 51% shares while 49% will be offloaded for the public.
- The authorized capital of the BRTC will be BDT 10 billion which will be divided into 1.0 billion general shares with BDT 10 base price. The authorized capital of the corporation under the existing law is only BDT 60 million. The paid-up capital of the corporation is BDT 30 million in the existing law. Its amount has not been fixed in the proposed law as the BRTC annual general meeting or special general meeting will fix the amount of the paid-up capital but it cannot exceed the amount of the authorized capital.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/brtc-shares-to-be-offloaded-1579542719>  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2020/01/20/brtc-shares-to-be-offloaded-in-capital-market>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$58.40	-0.14	-0.24%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$64.92	-0.28	-0.43%
Gold Spot*	\$1,566.37	+5.60	+0.36%
DSEX	4434.24	+52.18	+1.19%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	29,348.10	+50.46	+0.17%
FTSE 100	7,651.44	-23.12	-0.30%
Nikkei 225	23,902.60	-180.91	-0.75%
BSE SENSEX	41,528.91	-416.46	-0.99%

**Exchange Rates**

**USD 1 = BDT 84.87\***  
**GBP 1 = BDT 110.39\***  
**EUR 1 = BDT 94.19\***  
**INR 1 = BDT 1.19\***

\*Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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